

# CHECKLIST OF WISCONSIN BUTTERFLIES

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This is an update of the previous Wisconsin checklist by Ferge (1990). Its purpose is to provide a compact reference on Wisconsin's butterfly fauna, including a general account of distribution, occurrence, habitat and flight time. The nomenclature and arrangement of this checklist follows Pelham (2008).

Hole and Germain (1994) delineated six major natural divisions of Wisconsin, based on characteristics of geology, soils and vegetation. These are described below and their location indicated in Figure 1. Although it appears that butterfly distribution correlates well with these natural divisions, this is not exact; the intent being to summarize the available data as briefly as possible. The range given for each species reflects the areas of most frequent and typical occurrence.

- 1. Lake Superior Lowland:** A level to undulating glaciated plain formerly dominated by boreal forest of white spruce, balsam fir, white cedar, aspen and paper birch, but presently second growth forest similar to much of northern Wisconsin, with large peat bog and wetland areas.
- 2. Northern Highland:** A rolling glaciated plain with mixed deciduous and coniferous forest. Maple, aspen, red pine and white pine are the major tree species. The region contains an abundance of lakes, extensive conifer swamps and peat bogs, and limited areas of pine barrens on dry, sandy soils.
- 3. Lake Michigan Shoreland:** A level to rolling glaciated region with forests composed of sugar maple, basswood, elm, hemlock and beech at its western limit, with interspersed wetland communities.
- 4. Central Plains:** A nearly level sand plain on a former glacial lake bottom on which the original open jack pine barrens and oak savanna have largely succeeded to closed forests. This is a rich transitional area, with a mixture of western prairie and northern forest elements. Extensive wetlands, ranging from sedge meadows to tamarack bogs occur. Although not indicated on the map, western Burnett County is closely similar to the Central Plains, with most characteristic butterfly species also found there.
- 5. Southeastern Ridges and Lowlands:** A glaciated region of ridges, lowlands and moraines, now largely utilized for farmland, with forested areas containing maple, basswood, ash, elm and oak. Many wetland types are present, including sedge meadows and relic bogs. Limited prairie remnants also occur.
- 6. Southwestern Upland:** A hilly, unglaciated region also known as the Driftless Area, dissected by river valleys. Once extensive areas of prairie and oak savanna are now farmland, with prairie remnants found mostly on steep, rocky sites and on sand plains along the Wisconsin River. The forested areas are composed of oak, hickory, basswood, maple, elm and walnut. Large areas of wet riverbottom forest occur in the lower Wisconsin and Mississippi River Valleys.



Species	Range	Habitat	Flight Time	Status
Family <b>HESPERIIDAE</b> (Skippers)				
Subfamily Eudaminae (Eudamine Skippers)				
<i>Epargyreus clarus</i> (Cramer) Silver-spotted Skipper	Statewide	Open areas	June & August	Widespread
<i>Achalarus lyciades</i> (Geyer) Hoary Edge	6	Open woods	mid June-July	Stray
<i>Thorybes bathyllus</i> (J.E. Smith) Southern Cloudywing	5, 6	Open areas	mid June-July	Local
<i>Thorybes pylades</i> (Scudder) Northern Cloudywing	Statewide	Forest trails	June	Widespread
Subfamily Pyrginae (Pyrgine Skippers)				
<i>Staphylus hayhurstii</i> (Edwards) Hayhurst's Scallopwing	6	Open areas	August	Stray
<i>Pholisora catullus</i> (Fabricius) Common Sootywing	4, 5, 6	Weedy openings	June-September	Widespread
<i>Erynnis icelus</i> (Scudder & Burgess) Dreamy Duskywing	Statewide	Forest trails	May-early June	Common
<i>Erynnis brizo</i> (Boisduval & LeConte) Sleepy Duskywing	Statewide	Forest trails	May-early June	Common
<i>Erynnis juvenalis</i> (Fabricius) Juvenal's Duskywing	Statewide	Forest trails	May-early June	Common
<i>Erynnis horatius</i> (Scudder & Burgess) Horace's Duskywing	5	Forest trails	May & August	Stray
<i>Erynnis martialis</i> (Scudder) Mottled Duskywing	2, 4, 6	Barrens	May & late July	Local
<i>Erynnis funeralis</i> (Scudder & Burgess) Funereal Duskywing	5,6	Open areas	July-October	Stray
<i>Erynnis lucilius</i> (Scudder & Burgess) Columbine Duskywing	6	Rocky hillsides	May-September	Local
<i>Erynnis baptisiae</i> (Forbes) Wild Indigo Duskywing	4, 6	Open areas	May, August	Local
<i>Erynnis persius</i> (Scudder) Persius Duskywing	4	Barrens	May	Local
<i>Pyrgus communis</i> (Grote) Common Checkered Skipper	4, 5, 6	Weedy openings	July-September	Migrant
Subfamily Heteropterinae (Intermediate Skippers)				
<i>Carterocephalus palaemon mandan</i> (Edwards) Arctic Skipper	1, 2, 3, 4	Moist woods	early June	Widespread
Subfamily Hesperinae (Branded Skippers)				
<i>Ancyloxypha numitor</i> (Fabricius) Least Skipper	Statewide	Wetlands	mid June-September	Widespread
<i>Oarisma powesheik</i> (Parker) Powesheik Skipperling	5	Wet prairies	early July	ENDANGERED

<i>Thymelicus lineola</i> (Ochsenheimer) European Skipper	Statewide	Grassy openings	mid June	Common
<i>Amblyscirtes hegon</i> (Scudder) Pepper and Salt Skipper	1, 2, 3, 5	Forest trails	early June	Local
<i>Amblyscirtes vialis</i> (Edwards) Roadside Skipper	2, 4, 6	Dry openings	May & July	Widespread
<i>Nastra lherminier</i> (Latreille) Swarthy Skipper	6	Dry Prairies	late August	Stray
<i>Lerodea eufala</i> (Edwards) Eufala Skipper	5	Dry openings	August-September	Stray
<i>Hylephila phyleus</i> (Drury) Fiery Skipper	4, 5, 6	Grassy openings	late July-Septmeber	Migrant
<i>Hesperia comma laurentina</i> (Lyman) Laurentian Skipper	1, 2	Open areas	late July	Local
<i>Hesperia ottoe</i> (Edwards) Ottoe Skipper	6	Dry prairies	July	Local
<i>Hesperia leonardus leonardus</i> (Harris) Leonard's Skipper	2, 4, 6	Sand prairie, barrens	late August	Local
<i>Hesperia metea</i> (Scudder) Cobweb Skipper	2, 4	Barrens	May	Local
<i>Hesperia sassacus</i> (Harris) Indian Skipper	Statewide	Open areas	early June	Widespread
<i>Polites peckius</i> (Kirby) Peck's Skipper	Statewide	Open areas	June & August	Common
<i>Polites themistocles</i> (Latreille) Tawny-edged Skipper	Statewide	Open areas	June & August	Common
<i>Polites origenes</i> (Fabricius) Crossline Skipper	4, 5, 6	Prairies	late June-July	Local
<i>Polites mystic</i> (Edwards) Long Dash	Statewide	Open areas	late June-July	Common
<i>Wallengrenia egeremet</i> (Scudder) Northern Broken Dash	4, 5, 6	Moist openings	July	Common
<i>Pompeius verna</i> (Edwards) Little Glassywing	5, 6	Moist openings	late June	Local
<i>Atalopedes campestris</i> (Boisduval) Satchem	Statewide	Open areas	early June	Migrant
<i>Atrytone arogos</i> (Boisduval & LeConte) Arogos Skipper	5	Dry prairie	early July	Historic record
<i>Problema byssus</i> (Edwards) Byssus Skipper	6	Dry to mesic prairie	early July	Local
<i>Poanes hobomok</i> (Harris) Hobomok Skipper	Statewide	Forest trails	early June	Common
<i>Poanes massasoit</i> (Scudder) Mulberry Wing	3, 4, 5, 6	Sedge meadows	mid July	Local
<i>Poanes viator</i> (Edwards) Broad-winged Skipper	4, 5	Sedge meadows	mid July	Local

<i>Anatrytone logan</i> (Edwards) Delaware Skipper	Statewide	Open areas	July	Widespread
<i>Euphyes conspicua</i> (Edwards) Black Dash	3, 4, 5, 6	Sedge meadows	mid July	Local
<i>Euphyes dion</i> (Edwards) Dion Skipper	Statewide	Sedge meadows	mid July	Local
<i>Euphyes bimacula</i> (Grote & Robinson) Two-spotted Skipper	Statewide	Wetlands	mid July	Local
<i>Euphyes vestris metacomet</i> (Harris) Dun Skipper	Statewide	Open areas	July	Common
<i>Atrytonopsis hianna</i> (Scudder) Dusted Skipper	4, 6	Sand prairie, barrens	May-early June	Local
Family <b>PAPILIONIDAE</b> (Swallowtails)				
<i>Battus philenor</i> (Linnaeus) Pipevine Swallowtail	3, 5	Open areas	July	Stray
<i>Eurytides marcellus</i> (Cramer) Zebra Swallowtail	4, 5	Open areas	June-August	Stray
<i>Papilio polyxenes asterias</i> Stoll Black Swallowtail	Statewide	Open areas	May-September	Widespread
<i>Papilio cresphontes</i> (Cramer) Giant Swallowtail	5, 6	Open areas	May, August	Widespread
<i>Papilio glaucus</i> (Linnaeus) Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	4, 5, 6	Forest trails	May, August	Widespread
<i>Papilio canadensis</i> (Rothschild & Jordan) Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	1, 2, 3	Forest trails	early June	Common
<i>Papilio troilus</i> (Linnaeus) Spicebush Swallowtail	5, 6	Forest trails	June-July	Stray
Family <b>PIERIDAE</b> (Whites and Sulphurs)				
Subfamily Coliadinae (Sulphurs)				
<i>Nathalis iole</i> (Boisduval) Dainty Sulphur	Statewide	Weedy openings	June-September	Migrant
<i>Eurema mexicana</i> (Boisduval) Mexican Yellow	6	Open areas	late June-August	Stray
<i>Abaeis nicippe</i> (Cramer) leppy Orange	5, 6	Open areas	June-August	Stray
<i>Pyrisitia lisa</i> (Boisduval & LeConte) Little Yellow	Statewide	Open areas	July-September	Migrant
<i>Colias philodice</i> (Godart) Clouded Sulphur	Statewide	Open areas	May-September	Common
<i>Colias eurytheme</i> (Boisduval) Orange Sulphur	Statewide	Open areas	May-September	Common
<i>Colias interior</i> (Scudder) Pink-edged Sulphur	1, 2, 4	Barrens, bogs	mid June & August	Widespread
<i>Zerene cesonia</i> (Stoll) Southern Dogface	5, 6	Dry prairies	late June-September	Migrant

<i>Phoebis sennae</i> (Linnaeus) Cloudless Sulphur	5, 6	Open areas	July-September	Migrant
<i>Phoebis agarithe</i> (Boisduval) Large Orange Sulphur	6	Open areas	August	Stray
<i>Phoebis philea</i> (Linnaeus) Orange-barred Sulphur	5	Open areas	July-September	Stray
Subfamily Pierinae (Whites, Marbles and Orangetips)				
<i>Anthocharis midea</i> (Hubner) Falcate Orangetip	5	Dry open areas	mid May	Stray
<i>Euchloe olympia</i> (Edwards) Olympia Marble	Statewide	Dry sandy areas	May	Widespread
<i>Pieris oleracea</i> (Harris) Mustard White	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Forest openings	May & July	Widespread
<i>Pieris virginiensis</i> (Edwards) West Virginia White	2, 3	Damp forests	early May	Local
<i>Pieris rapae</i> (Linnaeus) Cabbage White	Statewide	Open areas	late April-September	Common
<i>Pontia protodice</i> (Boisduval & LeConte) Checkered White	Statewide	Weedy openings	June-September	Migrant
<i>Pontia occidentalis</i> (Reakirt) Western Checkered White	2	Open areas	September	Stray
Family <b>LYCAENIDAE</b> (Harvesters, Coppers, Hairtreaks and Blues)				
Subfamily Miletinae (Harvesters)				
<i>Feniseca tarquinius</i> (Fabricius) Harvester	Statewide	Wet woods	late May-August	Local
Subfamily Lycaeninae (Coppers)				
<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> (Linnaeus) American Copper	Statewide	Dry open areas	may-August	Widespread
<i>Lycaena dione</i> (Scudder) Gray Copper	4, 5, 6	Open areas	late June	Local
<i>Lycaena hyllus</i> (Cramer) Bronze Copper	Statewide	Damp open areas	June, August	Local
<i>Lycaena epixanthe michiganensis</i> Rawson Bog Copper	1, 2, 3, 4	Open bogs	early July	Local
<i>Lycaena dorcas</i> (Kirby) Dorcas Copper	1, 2, 3	Open bogs	early July	Local
<i>Lycaena helloides</i> (Boisduval) Purplish Copper	Statewide	Wetlands	July	Local
Subfamily Theclinae (Hairstreaks and Elfins)				
<i>Satyrrium titus</i> (Fabricius) Coral Hairstreak	Statewide	Open areas	July	Widespread
<i>Satyrrium acadica</i> (Edwards) Acadian Hairstreak	Statewide	Wetlands	early July	Local

<i>Satyrium edwardsii</i> (Grote & Robinson) Edwards' Hairstreak	Statewide	Open oak woods	early July	Widespread
<i>Satyrium calanus falacer</i> (Godart) Banded Hairstreak	Statewide	Open oak woods	early July	Common
<i>Satyrium caryaevorus</i> (McDunnough) Hickory Hairstreak	5, 6	Forest edges	early July	Local
<i>Satyrium liparops strigosa</i> (Harris) Striped Hairstreak	Statewide	Forest edges	early July	Local
<i>Callophrys gryneus</i> (Hubner) Juniper Hairstreak	4, 6	Red cedar areas	mid May & July	Local
<i>Callophrys augustinus</i> (Westwood) Brown Elfin	1, 2, 3, 4	Barrens, bogs	May-early June	Common
<i>Callophrys polios</i> (Cook & Watson) Hoary Elfin	2, 4	Barrens	May	Local
<i>Callophrys irus</i> (Godart) Frosted Elfin	4	Barrens	May	ENDANGERED
<i>Callophrys henrici</i> (Grote & Robinson) Henry's Elfin	2, 4	Barrens, bogs	May	Local
<i>Callophrys niphon clarki</i> (Freeman) Eastern Pine Elfin	2, 4, 6	Jack pine areas	May	Local
<i>Strymon melinus</i> (Hubner) Gray Hairstreak	Statewide	Open areas	May-August	Migrant
<i>Strymon istapa</i> (Reakirt) Mallow Hairstreak	6	Open areas	late August	Stray
<i>Parrhasius m-album</i> (Boisduval & LeConte) White M Hairstreak	3	Open areas	August	Stray
<i>Erora laeta</i> (Edwards) Early Hairstreak	3	Beech forests	mid May	unknown
Subfamily Polyommatainae (Blues)				
<i>Leptotes marina</i> (Reakirt) Marine Blue	5, 6	Dry prairies	July	Stray
<i>Cupido comyntas</i> (Godart) Eastern Tailed Blue	Statewide	Open areas	May-September	Common
<i>Cupido amyntula</i> (Boisduval) Western Tailed Blue	2	NW dry areas	late May	Local
<i>Celastrina lucia</i> (Kirby) Spring Azure	Statewide	Forests	May, July	Widespread
<i>Celastrina serotina</i> Paavulan & D. Wright Cherry Gall Azure	2	Open forests	early June	possibly widespread
<i>Celastrina neglecta</i> (Edwards) Summer Azure	Statewide	Forests	May, July	Widespread
<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus couperi</i> Grote Silvery Blue	Statewide	Dry openings	May	Widespread
<i>Echinargus isola</i> (Reakirt) Reakirt's Blue	4, 5, 6	Dry prairies	late June-August	Migrant

<i>Plebejus idas nabokovi</i> (Masters) Northern Blue	2	NE barrens	early July	ENDANGERED
<i>Plebejus melissa melissa</i> (Edwards) Melissa Blue	2	Open areas St. Croix County	late May & August	Local
<i>Plebejus melissa samuelis</i> (Nabokov) Karner Blue	4	Barrens	late May & August	ENDANGERED
<i>Plebejus saepiolus</i> (Boisduval) Greenish Blue	1, 2	Open areas	mid June	Local
Family <b>RIODINIDAE</b> (Metalmarks)				
<i>Calephelis muticum</i> McAlpine Swamp Metalmark	5	Fens, wetlands	mid July	ENDANGERED
Family <b>NYMPHALIDAE</b> (Brush-Footed Butterflies)				
Subfamily Libytheinae (Snout Butterflies)				
<i>Libytheana carinenta</i> (Cramer) American Snout	5, 6	Low forests	August-September	Migrant
Subfamily Danaidae (Milkweed Butterflies)				
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> (Linnaeus) Monarch	Statewide	Open areas	mid May-September	Migrant
Subfamily Limentidinae (Admirals)				
<i>Limenitis arthemis arthemis</i> (Drury) Banded Purple	2, 3, 4	Forest trails	June & August	Common
<i>Limenitis arthemis astyanax</i> (Fabricius) Red-spotted Purple	4, 5, 6	Forest trails	June & August	Widespread
<i>Limenitis archippus</i> (Cramer) Viceroy	Statewide	Wetlands	June & August	Widespread
Subfamily Heliconiinae (Heliconians and Fritillaries)				
<i>Agraulis vanillae</i> (Linnaeus) Gulf Fritillary	4, 5	Open areas	June-September	Migrant
<i>Euptoieta claudia</i> (Cramer) Variegated Fritillary	Statewide	Open areas	June-September	Migrant
<i>Boloria eunomia dawsoni</i> (Barnes & McD.) Bog Fritillary	1, 2	Open bogs	mid June	Local
<i>Boloria selene</i> (Schiffermuller) Silver-bordered Fritillary	Statewide	Wetlands	late May & August	Widespread
<i>Boloria bellona</i> (Fabricius) Meadow Fritillary	Statewide	Open areas	May-September	Widespread
<i>Boloria frigga saga</i> (Staudinger) Frigga Fritillary	1, 2	Open bogs	late May	Local
<i>Boloria freija</i> (Thunberg) Freija Fritillary	1, 2	Open bogs	mid to late May	Local
<i>Boloria characlea grandis</i> (Barnes & McD.) Arctic Fritillary	1	Open bogs	early August	Local
<i>Speyeria cybele</i> (Fabricius) Great Spangled Fritillary	Statewide	Moist openings	mid June-August	Widespread



<i>Speyeria aphrodite</i> (Fabricius) Aphrodite Fritillary	Statewide	Prairie, barrens	late June-August	Widespread
<i>Speyeria idalia</i> (Drury) Regal Fritillary	4, 5, 6	Dry prairies	July-September	ENDANGERED
<i>Speyeria atlantis</i> (Edwards) Atlantis Fritillary	1, 2, 3, 4	Forest trails	mid June-July	Widespread
Subfamily Apaturinae (Emperors)				
<i>Asterocampa celtis</i> (Boisduval & LeConte) Hackberry Butterfly	4, 5, 6	Low forests	June & August	Local
<i>Asterocampa clyton</i> (Boisduval & LeConte) Tawny Emperor	4, 5, 6	Low forests	late June-July	Local
Subfamily Nymphalinae (Thistle Butterflies, Tortoise Shells, Anglewings, Buckeyes, Checkerspot and Crescents)				
<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i> (Drury) American Lady	Statewide	Open areas	May-September	Widespread
<i>Vanessa cardui</i> (Linnaeus) Painted Lady	Statewide	Open areas	May-September	Migrant
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i> (Linnaeus) Red Admiral	Statewide	Open areas	May-September	Migrant
<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i> (Drury) American Lady	Statewide	Open areas	May-September	Widespread
<i>Aglais milberti</i> (Godart) Milbert's Tortoise Shell	Statewide	Open areas	July-May	Widespread
<i>Nymphalis l-album j-album</i> (Bdv. & LeConte) Compton Tortoise Shell	Statewide	Forest trails	July-May	Widespread
<i>Nymphalis californica</i> (Boisduval) California Tortoise Shell	3	Open forest	July-May	Stray
<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i> (Linnaeus) Mourning Cloak	Statewide	Forest trails	July-May	Widespread
<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i> (Fabricius) Question Mark	Statewide	Forest trails	July-May	Widespread
<i>Polygonia comma</i> (Harris) Eastern Comma	Statewide	Forest trails	July-May	Widespread
<i>Polygonia satyrus</i> (Edwards) Satyr Comma	1, 2	Forest trails	July-May	Sporadic
<i>Polygonia progne</i> (Cramer) Gray Comma	Statewide	Forest trails	July-May	Widespread
<i>Polygonia faunus</i> (Edwards) Green Comma	1, 2	Forest trails	July-May	Local
<i>Junonia coenia</i> (Hubner) Common Buckeye	Statewide	Open areas	May-September	Migrant
<i>Euphydryas phaeton</i> (Drury) Baltimore	Statewide	Wetlands	July	Local
<i>Chlosyne nycteis</i> (Doubleday) Silvery Checkerspot	Statewide	Open areas	May-September	Common



<i>Chlosyne gorgone carlota</i> (Reakirt) Gorgone Checkerspot	4, 5, 6	Prairie, barrens	May-September	Local
<i>Chlosyne harrisii</i> (Scudder) Harris' Checkerspot	1, 2, 3, 4	Wetlands	June	Local
<i>Phyciodes tharos</i> (Drury) Pearl Crescent	4, 5, 6	Open areas	June; August-September	Common
<i>Phyciodes cocyta</i> (Cramer) Northern Pearl Crescent	1, 2, 3, 4	Open areas	June-mid July	Common
<i>Phyciodes batesii</i> (Reakirt) Tawny Crescent	1, 2, 3, 4	Dry sandy areas	June	Local
Subfamily Charaxinae (Leaf Butterflies)				
<i>Anaea andria</i> (Scudder) Goatweed Butterfly	5	Forest trails	August	Stray
Subfamily Satyrinae (Satyrs and Wood Nymphs)				
<i>Enodia anthedon</i> (A. H. Clark) Northern Pearly Eye	Statewide	Forests	July	Common
<i>Lethe eurydice eurydice</i> (Linnaeus) Eyed Brown	Statewide	Wetlands	July	Widespread
<i>Lethe eurydice fumosa</i> (Leussler) Smoky Eyed Brown	4, 5, 6	Prairie wetlands	July	Local
<i>Lethe appalachia</i> R. Chermock Appalachian Eyed Brown	Statewide	Swamp forests	July	Widespread
<i>Coenonympha tullia inornata</i> (Edwards) Common Ringlet	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	Grassy openings	mid June	Common
<i>Megisto cymela</i> (Cramer) Little Wood Satyr	Statewide	Forest openings	June	Common
<i>Cercyonis pegala nephele</i> (Kirby) Common Wood Nymph	Statewide	Open areas	late June-August	Common
<i>Erebia discoidalis</i> (Kirby) Red-disked Alpine	1, 2	Open bogs	late May	Local
<i>Oeneis jutta ascerta</i> (Masters & Sorenson) Jutta Arctic	1, 2, 4	Bog conifer forest	early June	Widespread
<i>Oeneis chryxus strigulosa</i> (McDunnough) Chryxus Arctic	2	Barrens	late May	Local

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